Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Immunization Section

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Health Alert: Measles Exposure in King County, 10 June, 2015

Action requested:

- Be aware of a confirmed case of measles in an adult international traveler who spent time in several locations in King County while contagious. We expect any illnesses from the exposures to have onset dates between June 6 and June 20.
- Consider measles infection in exposed patients with compatible symptoms that develop through 21 days from the exposure, including:
 - Prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis for 2-4 days
 - o Generalized maculopapular rash that usually begins on the face
 - Koplik spots may appear on buccal mucosa 1-2 days prior to rash
- Instruct reception staff to identify patients who present with symptoms of possible measles
 - Such patients should wear a mask covering the nose and mouth and should be kept away from patient waiting rooms
 - Room patient immediately and close the door.
 - Only staff with documented immunity to measles should be allowed to enter the patient's room.
 - After patient is discharged, do not use room for 2 hours.
- Report suspected cases of measles to Public Health at (206) 296-4774 immediately before discharging or transferring patient
- Collect specimens on patients with suspected measles
 - Serum for measles IgM
 - Specimens for viral culture: nasopharyngeal swab or wash, urine
 - Route laboratory specimens through Public Health to expedite testing, do not use commercial laboratory

Background

The case was in the following locations in King County on May 30th, 2015:

- 9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m. Baroness Hotel (common areas), 1005 Spring St, Seattle
- 9:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. Bartell Drugs, 910 4th Ave, Seattle
- 9:45 a.m. 11:55 a.m. McDonalds, 1530 3rd, Ave, Seattle
- 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. T-Mobile, 1527 6th, Ave, Seattle
- 6:00 p.m. -12:00 a.m. SeaTac Airport

The traveler was likely exposed to measles while overseas, was not born in the U.S., and did not have documentation childhood measles vaccination.

Resources

- Measles chapter from CDC's Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (The Pink Book): www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pub2s/pinkbook/meas.html
- Public Health Seattle & King County Measles Resources, with fact sheets in multiple languages: www.kingcounty.gov/health/cd click on "M" in A-Z index then "Measles"